

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJ: RIGHT WING GROUP ISSUES STATEMENT OPPOSING PRESENT GOVT

REF: MADRID 5760

1. SUMMARY: EDITORIAL OF RIGHT-WING JOURNAL "FUERZA NUEVA" SEPT 28 OPENLY ATTACKS LIBERALIZATION PROGRAM ANNOUNCED BY ARIAS NAVARRO AND STATES THAT IT WILL NOT FOLLOW GOVT IN CARRYING OUT PROCESS OF DEMOCRATICATION IN SPAIN. IN REPLY, MEDIA HAVE OVERWHELMINGLY DEFENDED ARIAS NAVARRO'S PROGRAM AND EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT OPEN ATTACK ON PRESIDENT BY RIGHT-WING GROUP LED BY BLAS PINAR HAS IN EFFECT BOOMERANGED BY REVEALING WEAKNESS OF RIGHT WING'S POSITION AND STRENGTHENED PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION. END SUMMARY

2. "FUERZA NUEVA", WEEKLY REVIEW PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF BLAS PINAR, NATIONAL COUNCILOR AND DEPUTY IN CORTES, CARRIED TWO-PAGE EDITORIAL IN SEPT 28 ISSUE ENTITLED "SEÑOR PRESIDENTE" IN WHICH PRESIDENT ARIAS NAVARRO IS OPENLY ATTACKED FOR HIS PLANS TO CARRY OUT DEMOCRATIZATION OF SPAIN. ARTICLE IS RESPONSE TO STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT SEPT 11 INSINUATING THAT GROUP BEHIND "FUERZA NUEVA" BELONGED IN SAME CATEGORY AS COMMUNISTS AND ETA (REFTEL). EDITORIAL STATES THAT IT HAS OPPOSED ARIAS NAVARRO

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GOVT FEB 12 ANNOUNCED PROGRAM. BLAS PINAR THEN STATES THAT

MOVEMENT, AS SUCCESSOR TO FALANGE WHICH WAS BORN FROM ANTI-PARTY ATTITUDE IN CIVIL WAR SPAIN, WAS OPPOSED TO MULTIPLICITY OF PARTIES WHICH WOULD BE THE RESULT OF ALLOWING POLITICAL ASSOCIATION. ARTICLE ALSO ATTACKS ARIAS FOR HAVING INDIRECTLY DOWN-GRADED YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF NATIONAL MOVEMENT. IN CONCLUSION BLAS PINAR STATED "AFTER STATING THE FOREGOING, WE CANNOT COLLABORATE WITH YOU, NOT EVEN IN THE OPPOSITION. WE DO NOT WISH TO OBEY YOU OR TO ACCOMPANY YOU." EDITORIAL THEN WARNS ARIAS TO "THINK WHETHER THOSE WHO ARE ACCOMPANYING YOU ARE BEING LED OR ARE PUSHING YOU."

3. IN PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING PRECEDING DAY, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM PIO CABANILLAS STATED THAT PRESIDENT ARIAS NAVARRO HAD NOT ORDERED CONFISCATION OF ISSUE OF "FUERZA NUEVA" WITH EDITORIAL ATTACK BECAUSE OF HIS COMMITMENT TO A FREE PRESS. CABANILLAS ALSO SAID THAT ARIAS HAD BEEN INFORMED OF CONTENT OF ARTICLE BEFOREHAND BUT INSISTED THAT IT BE RELEASED. CABANILLAS EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT THRUST OF ARTICLE WAS HARDLY DESIGNED TO PROMOTE THE IDEA OF A NATIONAL CONSENSUS IN SPAIN. HE STATED FURTHER THAT THE ARTICLE WAS BEING INVESTIGATED BY THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES AS TO THE APPROPRIATENESS OF ITS PERSONAL ATTACK ON PRESIDENT.

4. SPANISH MEDIA HAVE CONDEMNED "FUERZA NUEVA'S" ATTACK ON PRESIDENT AND PARTICULARLY POLARIZATION OF THE POLITICAL RIGHT WHICH ARTICLE IMPLICITLY ENCOURAGES. ONE COMMENTATOR SAID THAT THIS WAS FIRST TIME IN FRANCO REGIME THAT THE GOVT HAS BEEN DIRECTLY ATTACKED IN THIS FASHION. OTHER COMMENTATORS HAVE SAID THAT IT WAS TIME THAT PROGRAM OF DEMOCRATIZATION DEFENDED BY ARIAS SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN ORDER TO INSURE THAT SO-CALLED "SILENT MAJORITY" COULD BE HEARD. "LA VANGUARDIA" NOTED SEPT 29 THAT BLAS PINAR'S WARNING THAT ARIAS' POLICIES COULD YIELD "A LEGION OF CORPSES" WAS HARDLY THE SORT OF THING TO TRANQUILIZE THE PUBLIC. ANOTHER COMMENTATOR IN "EL NORTE DE CASTILLA" STATED SEPT 29 THAT PINAR'S ATTACK WOULD PROBABLY CREATE MORE SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FOR ARIAS AND HIS POLICIES.

5. COMMENT: EDITORIAL REPRESENTS AN OPEN DECLARATION OF OPPOSITION BY THE MOST COHESIVE ELEMENT OF THE EXTREME RIGHT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN SPAIN. "FUERZA NUEVA" HAS BEEN PUBLISHED SINCE 1966 AND HAS IN THE PAST YEARS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE MOST VOCIFEROUS OF THE EXTREME RIGHT WING GROUPS. BLAS PINAR CONSISTENTLY HAS BEEN AN OUTSPOKEN OPPONENT OF THE TYPE OF DEMOCRATIZATION ADVOCATED BY ARIAS AND A LARGE SECTOR OF POLITICAL OPINION. IN JULY 1974 HIS WAS THE ONLY VOTE AGAINST A REPORT DRAFTED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE MOVEMENT ON A REPORT ON POLITICAL PARTICIPATION PREPARED FOR THE GOVT

AS A PREPARATORY REPORT FOR THE DRAFT LAW ON POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SOURCES, THE GROUP AROUND BLAS PINAR IS NOT FORMIDABLE IN NUMBERS AND POWER BUT, AS ONLY ORGANIZATIONS OF THE RIGHT HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY FREE TO ACT POLITICALLY IN RECENT YEARS, IT ATTRACTS A DISPROPORTIONATE AMOUNT OF MEDIA ATTENTION.

6. NEAR UNANIMOUS MEDIA CRITICISM OF PINAR'S ARTICLE, TOGETHER WITH SOME EDITORIALS REFERRING TO INCREASED PRESTIGE OF ARIAS NAVARRO, MAY END UP BY FURTHER ISOLATING PINAR AND HIS ORGANIZATION. WHILE SOME GOVT STIMULATION POSSIBLE IN REBUTTALS, WORTH NOTING THAT NATIONAL MOVEMENT'S "ARRIBA" WHICH REFLECTS VIEW OF MORE MODERATE FALANGISTS AND WHICH HAS PUBLISHED CRITICISM IN PAST OF ARIAS POLICIES, EDITORIALY CHIDED "FUERZA NUEVA" FOR PRESUMING TO SPAK FOR THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT IN ITS ATTACK. MEDIA IS NORMALLY HEAVILY IN FAVOR OF DEMOCRATIZATION AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO STAND BY ARIAS NAVARRO'S LIBERAL POLICIES, PARTICULARLY HIS SUPPORT OF MORE OPEN PRESS POLICY. AGAINST BACKDROP OF RECENT EVENTS IN PORTUGAL, RIGHT-WING IN SPAIN ALREADY USING EVIDENCE OF APPARENT LEFTIST TURN OF EVENTS IN PORTUGAL TO ARGUE THAT NO EXPERIMENTS SHOULD ATTEMPTED WHICH WOULD ALLOW LEFTIST GROUPS TO PARTICIPATE. AT SAME TIME, THOSE FAVORING POLITICAL DEMOCRATIZATION ASSERT THAT IT IS PRECISELY BECAUSE THERE IS ABSENCE OF ORGANIZED GROUPS IN THE CENTER WHICH MAKES IT IMPERATIVE TO HAVE POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS IN ORDER TO AVOID THE SORT OF VACUUM WHICH, AS SEEN BY SPANISH OBSERVERS, HAS BEEN ONE OF REASONS FOR THE POLITICAL INSTABILITY OF POST-SALAZAR PORTUGAL. ON THE WHOLE ARIAS HAS FARED RATHER WELL IN THIS EPISODE. BY ALLOWING ARTICLE, HE HAS DEMONSTRATED COMMITMENT TO RIGHT OF DISSENT. EXTREME RIGHT HAS ISOLATED ITSELF SOMEWHAT FROM IMPORTANT POTENTIAL ALLIES ON MODERATE RIGHT, AND ARIAS AND HIS PROGRAM HAVE BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GIVEN EDITORIAL VOTE OF CONFIDENCE.
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